A Study of the Lot of Fortune Formula in Valens Charts

The following is a summary of an examination of the placement of the Lot of Fortune, when given, in the charts found in the Vettius Valens Anthology; chart data is extracted from *Greek Horoscopes* by O. Neugebauer and H. B. Van Hoesen, APS, Philedelphia, 1987. [Calculations are on the following pages].

Conclusion

> The reversal formula must be used to place the Lot in the same relation with the Asc that the Moon had to the Sun at sunrise on the day of birth.

Reasoning

There are 49 charts attributed to Valens which include the Lot of Fortune placement. Of these, 23 are nocturnal. The diurnal formula for the Lot calculation is:

Asc + (☽ – ☉)

In all but two instances, the given Lot placement agrees with the reversed formula calculations. Chart L159 gives a Lot placement that agrees with that found using the Diurnal formula [Asc + (☽ – ☉)]. Chart L173 is ambiguous; the placement does not match that found with either Diurnal or Nocturnal formula.

The evidence, of practise, at least by Valens, comes down heavily on the side of favouring the reverse formula.

The *reversal by night* can be expressed as:

Asc + (☉ - ☽) [the commonly used formula] or
Asc – (☽ - ☉)

The evidence for not reversing is derived from the implication that the reversal formula:

Asc + (☉ – ☽)

would give the Lot the same relationship to the Asc that the ☉ had to the ☽ when the *Moon* was on the Ascendant. i.e. it implies that not only must the planets be reversed in the formula, but the relationship expressed is also reversed.

However, this *is not the case;* the nocturnal formula:

Asc - (☽ – ☉)

Yields the same Lot placement as the more commonly used reversed formula *without* implying that it is the Moon which is now to be placed on the Ascendant.

The implied relationship is *not* destroyed by the reversal. When the reversal is viewed Asc – (☽ – ☉) the ☉ is still placed on the Ascendant and the Lot will have the same relationship to the Asc that the Moon has to the Sun.

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NR = Not reversed, R = reversed

Chart	Sect	Asc	☽	☉		Formula
L50	N	☊	♋	♏	♒	NR 180 + (90 – 210) = 180 – 120 = 60 (♊) R 180 + (210 – 90) = 180 + 120 = 300 (♒) 180 – (90 – 210) = 180 - (-120) = 300 (♒)
L61	D	♉	♒	♉	♒	30 + (300 – 30) = 30 + 270 = 300 (♒)
L62	D	♓	☊	♒	☊	330 + (180 – 300) = 330 – 120 = 210 (☊)
L65,V	N	♑	♊	♊	♑	NR 270 + (60 – 60) = 270 – 0 = 270 (♑) R 270 + (60 – 60) = 270 + 0 = 270 (♑) 270 – (60 – 60) = 270 – 0 = 270 (♑)
L65,X	D	♐	♈	♏	♉	240 + (0 – 210) = 240 – 210 = 30 (♉)
L72	D	♉	♐	♑	♈	30 + (240 – 270) = 30 – 30 = 0 (♈)
L74,XI	N	☊	♋	♐	♓	NR 180 + (90 – 240) = 180 – 150 = 30 (♉) R 180 + (240 – 90) = 180 + 150 = 330 (♓) 180 – (90 – 240) = 180 - (-150) = 330 (♓)
L75	N	♓	♓	♋	♋	NR 330 + (330 – 90) = 330 + 240 = 90 (♋) R 330 + (90 – 330) = 330 – 240 = 90 (♋) 330 - (330 – 90) = 330 - 240 = 90 (♋)
L82	D	☊	♉	♋	♌	180 + (30 – 90) = 180 – 60 = 120 (♌)
L83	D	♌	♒	♉	♉	120 + (300 – 30) = 120 + 270 = 390 – 360 = 30 (♉)
L85,II	D	♌	♏	♒	♉	120 + (210 – 300) = 120 + (-90) = 30 (♉)
L85,XI	D	♒	♋	♐	♌	300 + (90 – 240) = 300 + (-150) = 150 (♍)[1]
L87, I	N	♌	♌	♑	♑	NR 120 + (120 – 270) = 120 + (-150) = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓) R 120 + (270 -120) = 120 + 150 = 270 (♑) 120 – (120 – 270) = 120 - (-150) = 270 (♑)
L87,VII	D	☊	♓	♋	♊	180 + (330 – 90) = 180 + 240 = 420 – 360 = 60 (♊)
L88	D	♉	♓	♉	♓	30 + (330 – 30) = 30 + 300 = 330 (♓)
L89	N	♋	♍	♌	♊	NR 90 + (150 – 120) = 90 + 30 = 120 (♌) R 90 + (120 – 150) = 90 + (-30) = 60 (♊) 90 – (150 – 120) = 90 – 30 = 60 (♊)
L91	N	♏	♓	♈	♐	NR 210 + (330 – 0) = 210 + 330 = 540 – 360 = 180 (☊) R 210 + (0 – 330) = 210 + (-330) = -120 + 360 = 240 (♐) 210 – (330 – 0) = 210 – 330 = -120 + 360 = 240 (♐)
L92,XI	D	♏	♏	♏	♏	210 + (210 – 210) = 210 (♏)
L95,V,18	D	♋	♈	♉	♊	90 + (0 – 30) = 90 + (-30) = 60 (♊)
L97,II	D	♌	♐	♓	♉	120 + (240 – 330) = 120 + (-90) = 30 (♉)
L97,XI	N	♌	♈	♏	♓	NR 120 + (0 – 210) = 120 + (-210) = -90 + 360 = 270 (♑) R 120 + (210 – 0) = 120 + 210 = 330 (♓) 120 – (0 – 210) = 120 - (-210) = 330 (♓)
L101,I	N	♑	♊	♒	♍	NR 270 + (60 – 300) = 270 + (-240) = 30 (♉) R 270 + (300 – 60) = 270 + 240 = 510 – 360 = 150 (♍) 270 – (60 – 300) = 270 - (-240) = 510 – 360 = 150 (♍)
L101,III	D	♌	☊	♓	♓	120 + (180 – 330) = 120 + (-150) = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓)
L102,IVa[2]	D	♊	♓	♉	♈	60 + (330 – 30) = 60 + 300 = 360 (♈)
L102,IVb	N	♑	♓	♉	♓	NR 270 + (330 – 30) = 270 + 300 = 570 – 360 = 210 (♏) R 270 + (30 – 330) = 270 – 300 = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓) 270 – (330 – 30) = 270 – 300 = 30 (♓)

1 The attribution of Fortune to ♌ appears to be a textual error.
2 Valens does give Fortune here; it is implied by the textual context.

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Chart	Sect	Asc	☽	☉		Formula
L103	D	♒	♋	♄	♑	300 + (90 – 270) = 300 + (-180) = 120 (♑)
L104,IV	N	♈	♍	♉	♐	NR 0 + (150 – 30) = 0 + 120 = 120 (♑) R 0 + (30 – 150) = 0 – 120 = -120 + 360 = 240 (♐) 0 – (150 – 30) = 0 – 120 = -120 + 360 = 240 (♐)
L105	N	♌	♐	♄	♏	NR 180 + (240 – 270) = 180 – 30 = 150 (♍) R 180 + (270 – 240) = 180 + 30 = 210 (♏) 180 – (240 – 270) = 180 - (-30) = 210 (♏)
L106	N	♍	♏	♄	♏	NR 150 + (210 – 270) = 150 – 60 = 90 (♋) R 150 + (270 – 210) = 150 + 60 = 210 (♏) 150 – (210 – 270) = 150 - (-60) = 210 (♏)
L108,III	N	♒	♓	♈	♓	NR 300 + (330 – 0) = 300 + 330 = 630 – 360 = 270 (♄) R 300 + (0 – 330) = 300 + (-330) = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓) 300 – (330 – 0) = 300 – 330 = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓)
L108,XI	N	♑	♉	♏	♒	NR 120 + (30 – 210) = 120 + (-180) = 60 (♊) R 120 + (210 – 30) = 120 + 180 = 300 (♒) 120 – (30 – 210) = 120 - (-180) = 300 (♒)
L109	D	♋	♄	♊	♒	90 + (270 – 60) = 90 + 210 = 300 (♒)
L110,XII	N	♊	♋	♐	♏	NR 60 + (90 – 240) = 60 + (-150) = -90 + 360 = 270 (♄) R 60 + (240 – 90) = 60 + 150 = 210 (♏) 60 – (90 – 240) = 60 - (-150) = 210 (♏)
L112,VIII	N	♈	♏	♑	♄	NR 0 + (210 – 120) = 0 + 90 = 90 (♋) R 0 + (120 – 210) = 0 + (-90) = - 90 + 360 = 270 (♄) 0 – (210 – 120) = 0 - 90 = -90 + 360 = 270 (♄)
L113,IV	D	♈	♉	♈	♏	0 + (30 – 0) = 30 (♉)[3]
L115, XII	N	♋	♌	♄	♌	NR 90 + (180 – 270) = 90 – 90 = 0 (♈) R 90 + (270 – 180) = 90 + 90 = 180 (♌) 90 – (180 – 270) = 90 - (-90) = 180 (♌)
L116	D	♊	♍	♒	♄	60 + (150 – 300) = 60 + (-150) = -90 + 360 = 270 (♄)
L117,XI	D	♄	♋	♐	♑	270 + (90 – 240) = 270 + (-150) = 120 (♑)
L118	D	♄	♌	♐	♏	270 + (180 – 240) = 270 + (-60) = 210 (♏)
L122,VII, 30	D	♄	♌	♋	♐	270 + (180 – 90) = 270 + 90 = 360 (♈)[4]
L123,I	N	♏	♑	♄	♈	NR 210 + (120 – 270) = 120 + (-150) = -30 + 360 = 330 (♓) R 210 + (270 – 120) = 210 + 150 = 360 (♈) 210 – (120 – 270) = 210 - (-150) = 360 (♈)
L123,VII	D	25 ♏	19 ♓	8 ♋	6 ♑	235 + (349 – 98) = 235 + 251 = 486 – 360 = 126 (6 ♑)
L124	D	♌	♑	♑	♌	180 + (120 – 120) = 180 (♌)
L135,I	N	♍	♍	♒	♒	NR 150 + (150 – 300) = 150 + (-150) = 0 (♈) R 150 + (300 – 150) = 150 + 150 = 300 (♒) 150 – (150 – 300) = 150 - (-150) = 300 (♒)
L152	N	♑	♊	♄	♓	NR 120 + (60 – 270) = 120 + (-210) = -90 + 360 = 270 (♄) R 120 + (270 – 60) = 120 + 210 = 330 (♓) 120 – (60 – 270) = 120 - (-210) = 330 (♓)
L159	N	♉	♄	♋	♏	NR 30 + (270 – 90) = 30 + 180 = 210 (♏) R 30 + (90 – 270) = 30 + (-180) = 150 (♍) 30 – (270 – 90) = 30 – 180 = 150 (♍)[5]

3 The text says the ☽ was originally given in ♏ which would put Fortune as ♈ + (♏ – ♈) = 210 (♏) as stated

4 The text is not clear, the Asc may possibly be ♍ or ♓ and not ♄. If it is in ♍ it would be a nocturnal chart: 150 - (180 – 90) = 150 – 90 = 60 (♊); in ♓, diurnal: 330 + (180 – 90) = 330 + 90 = 420 – 360 = 60 (♊). Neither placement yields PoF in ♐. If we accept the ♄ Asc and treat it as a nocturnal chart: 270 – (180 – 90) = 270 - (-90) = 360 (♈)

5 The authors show the formula ♉ – (♄ – ♋) = ♉ – 6 signs = ♏ in error as 30 – 180 = 150 (♍), not 210 (♏)

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Chart	Sect	Asc	☽	☉		Formula
L162	D	♓	♉	♒	♊	330 + (30 – 300) = 330 – 270 = 60 (♊)
L173	N	♏	♈	♒	♌	NR 210 + (0 – 300) = 210 – 300 = -90 + 360 = 270 (♑) R 210 + (300 – 0) = 210 + 300 = 510 – 360 = 150 (♍) 210 - (0 – 300) = 210 - (-300) = 510 – 360 = 150 (♍)[6]
L188	D	♌	♌	♌	♌	180 + (120 – 120) = 180 (♌)

6 The footnote in the text uses the nocturnal formula ♏ – (♈ – ♒) = ♏ – slightly less than 11° gives ♌ however can't see how he arrives at this with the degrees given: 210 – (3 – 315) = 210 – (-312) = 522 – 360 = 162 (♍)

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